

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1924.

THE GREATEST PIECE OF MERCHANDISE

What is the greatest piece of merchandise that this world is willing to buy? Is it automobiles, real estate, food, clothing, talking machines, or a dozen other material things? We think not.

Recorded history proves that the good people of this earth want one thing above all else; and that one thing is known as CHRISTIANITY!

Oh, forgive us if we attempt to sermonize, because this little piece is written as a supplement to something in these columns a year or so ago—when we rallied to the defense of the preacher, and the treatment he receives at the hands of his congregation.

What is a preacher for, anyway? Isn't he actually hired by a group of people who are seeking information that will bring them a share of happiness? Aren't the clergymen of Birmingham engaged by church trustees to teach Christianity? Of course they are—no one will discredit this statement.

Are the local churches filled every Sunday? Are they growing, to meet the demands of an incessant influx of people into our town? They ought to be. If they are not, whose fault is it? Certainly not altogether the fault of the preacher.

Christianity IS the greatest piece of merchandise that this world has to offer. It is the finest, most lasting and imperishable bit of goods ever offered on the counters of commerce and industry. And the only reason that factories are not working overtime in the manufacture of Bibles is because the salesmen of religion, (your preachers) haven't the exact kind of sales-talk prepared for the millions of prospective customers whom they might reach.

What hinders the average preacher from being able to deliver, each week, a rattling good sermon to his congregation? Well, one of the hindrances is the fact that so many preachers are compelled to give a major portion of their time to solving a great many details of the church, details that should be placed in the hands of anybody but the preacher. Do you discredit this statement?—then verify it by asking your own preacher.

The clergyman's business is to attempt an interpretation of the principles of the Holy Bible to the life of his congregation, so that all may obtain the ability to act in Christian manner, and thus obtain happiness. "Pulpit discourses have insensibly dwindled from speaking to reading; a practice is sufficiently to stifle every germ of eloquence," declared Sydney Smith, English clergyman, nearly seventy-five years ago. Which proves that even years ago, like today, the time which a preacher should devote to studious interpretation of the Bible and life is taken up with other things.

To baptize a child, perform its wedding ceremony, attempt to Christianize it through its life by preaching GOD SERMONS, and then to officiate at the funeral service, ought to be all that society asks of its preachers. Does YOUR PREACHER really inspire you to a more complete understanding of the works of Jesus Christ, and through this inspiration are you obtaining more happiness from life? If he doesn't then perhaps he might if you'd give him a chance.

And, if you really do give him a chance, and he isn't equal to the task, fire him at once; tell him to quit the ministry and sell something else which, though vastly inferior in quality, is easier to put into the hands of the human family.

For, folks, the preservation of the human race depends upon the application of the Golden Rule to everyday life. And the greatest organization ever formed to deliver the Golden Rule is the church. God certainly produces the article which we call Christianity, and a waiting world is eager, (though it knows it not), to spend every cent it has for the possession of Christian happiness.

WELCOME (?) TO OUR CITY MR. TAXES

"Well, folks, here I am again, back on the job to pay my annual respects to the people of Birmingham and Bloomfield Township," declared Mr. Taxes for 1924, as he informed Eccentric readers last week that he was about to extract \$29.07 from them for every thousand dollars of assessed property valuation on the tax roll. And we have no doubt but what many residents of Bloomfield township, including Birmingham, sighed in disgust at the announcement.

"Death and taxes!" This old and familiar phrase has become world famous since Ben Franklin, writing to a friend in 1780, said, "Our Constitution is in actual operation; everything appears to promise that it will last; but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes." The philosopher of 1924 will admit that the Constitution has lasted, with certain amendments; that people continue to die, and that taxes are still collected—the latter with goodly additions.

As you march up to pay your \$29.07 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation next month, try to think what you are getting in return for it. You are getting state, county, and local government; you are maintaining a public school system; you are paying for public improvements; you are building and maintaining prisons, asylums, hospitals and public homes; you are making it possible for you and your neighbor to live in a kind of peace and harmony. Yes, you are doing many things that you really have forgotten were necessary for you to do.

That is why Mr. Taxes never arrives on a late train, for this business of government must continue uninterrupted. Do you think your tax rate is too high? Have you

done anything to relieve the cost of running the state of Michigan?

Twenty-nine dollars and seven cents would be a lot of money to pay on every thousand dollars that one may possess if one lived in Utopia—and the difference is what we pay for living in Michigan, or most any other place on earth, for that matter.

The taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid by the government were the only ones we had to pay, we might more easily discharge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our idleness, three times as much by our pride, and four times as much by our folly; and from these taxes the commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing an abatement.—Ben Franklin.

THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

Civilization's march of progress is the sum total of the thoughts of individual men and women applied to living.

From some little room in a house in Anytown. Anywhere, a man or a woman yesterday THOUGHT CONSTRUCTIVELY and the thought was acclaimed and accepted by mankind. The same kind of THINKING is going on today; serious and sincere students of mankind are evermore seeking out solutions for the ills of the world; they give their lives in an effort to stabilize society; they are true martyrs.

They are the creators of the actions of onward progress—may their numbers increase.

Perhaps men of genius alone deserve to be called real men. In all the history of the race there have been only a few thousands of real men. And the rest of us—what are we? Teachable animals. Without the help of real men we should have found out almost nothing at all. Almost all the ideas with which we are familiar could never have occurred to minds like ours. Plant the seeds there and they will grow; but our minds could not have generated them.—Aldous Huxley, impudent English anatomist of modern life, in Current Opinion.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Just Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

43 Years Ago Who said Charlie Mudge had gone into the pines? ... Our late fall took a sudden cold on Friday night last.

The place to get custom milling is at the Bloomfield Mills. They guarantee satisfaction.

You may say all you have a mind to, but everyone knows that a news-paper office can't furnish as much news as a dressmaking establishment.

Godley's Lady's Book for December is one of the Brightest and Best numbers ever issued. It is brimful of good things. The steel plate is an original design by Darley, entitled, "The Upright Man" by Sir Walter Scott, and is a gem. There is a good sized Complete Novel entitled, "All For a Song," numerous shorter stories, poems, and sketches, all exceedingly well written. The fashion illustrations are superb.

A choice selection of the youthful miss of the village were employed in the interesting occupation of rattling the blinds, knocking the doors and otherwise disturbing Divine worship at the Tuesday evening prayer meeting at the Presbyterian church last week, when our worthy friend, the minister, opened the door unexpectedly and recognized the offenders. Caught again, the names of the offenders will appear in large type in the Eccentric.

When our readers are in the city, they cannot do better than to put up at Rice's Temperance Hotel, corner of Bates and Congress Streets.

Married; On Sunday November 19, at the residence of the bride, Thomas Lewis to Mrs. Matilda Louise Best, Bartlett officiating. They felt matrimonially inclined and the worthy Elder made a "flattering" man in less than two revolutions of a coffee mill.

Royal Oak; the next time a certain young man attends church, and is obliged to sit during divine worship with his boots on, and his feet bare, do not think he is doing it for the first time; we believe that he will see to it before he leaves home that there are no holes in his socks.

Southfield; Mr. Jim Miller prevented his daughter, Miss Edna, from being caught Clough & Warren present.

The meanest piece of detestable vandalism we have heard of lately, was the piling of about seven bushels of potatoes from the widow of John Lyle recently. They were buried behind the house, and were depended upon for the subsistence of the nearly destitute family, for the winter.

Lyman Peabody— all sound on the goose question. He shot a 9½ pound "wild goose" on Tuesday last. P. S.—He hasn't settled with the farmer yet.

Miss Bertha Simonson is developing very fast as a musician, and will soon rank as a first class organist.

25 Years Ago A lady in Oakland township is the mother of twins—a girl and a boy. She has named the boy Henry and the girl Etta, and when she speaks of them collectively she calls them Henrietta.

The ladies of the Library Society are very anxious to rent their vacant rooms, but they refuse to rent them for pool rooms.

George T. Bench has sold his meat market business to Frank and Philip Nettick, who will open their establishment to the public Saturday of this week.

Miss Sophia Blackmore, the Singapore missionary, was greeted by a large congregation Sunday morning at the M. E. church. Miss Blackmore is spending a year in America in the interest of the Malaysia Missionary, hoping to make some converts among the heathens here, after which she will visit her native home in Australia, going from thence to Singapore, China, where she will resume her life of labor.

At the Theatre, Harry Glensons' engagement as D'Almeida in "The Three Musketeers" at the Lyceum this week has been in the nature of a personal triumph.

Agents wanted—for "The Life and Achievements of Admiral Dewey," the world's greatest naval hero. By Stuart Halstead, the lifetime friend and admirer of the nation's hero.

Thanksgiving menu—The following menu will be served at the Thanksgiving dinner in the M. E. Church parlors immediately after the union services on Thanksgiving day. Turkey, chicken pie, mashed potatoes, squash, cabbage, pickles, cranberry sauce, celery, bread, butter, preserves, mince, pumpkin, apple-sauce, tea, coffee. 20 cents per plate; chicken 10 cents.

Chickens will be the proper thing for Thanksgiving dinners in Pontiac this year. The sheriff's office now has a supply of between 200 and 300 chickens and as yet no one has claimed the chickens for their property. Early yesterday morning Deputy Fay of Birmingham, arrested two men because they had one of the sheriff's chickens. Parties who had chickens stolen can recover, then providing they can identify any of those captured.

Some are "Spruce" and Summer-rot. Wednesday evening of last week being the 30th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Two Blumberg, about 50 of their friends planned a pleasant surprise for them, which was success, even for the surprise party. A fine parlor table had been purchased for the worthy couple, but it was delivered by mistake, the evening before the one appointed.

In our great state, A Holland drunkard kills his wife and tries to end his own existence. Safe crackers get \$2,000 at Brooklyn. Other items.

For three successive weeks previous and day of being in the Birmingham Eccentric a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

STATE OF MICHIGAN. The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a special session held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, on said 13th day of November, A. D. 1924.

In the matter of the estate of Emma J. Miller deceased. Charles D. Miller having filed in this court an instrument in writing purporting to be a will of said deceased, and submitting the same to proof in the said court, and the same being proved, and that said will was allowed, filed and pronounced to be the last will and testament of said deceased, and that said will be granted to said said estate if certain conditions be complied with.

Notice of Mortgage Sale. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Lester Cheesman and Carrie A. Cheesman, husband and wife, mortgagors, and The State Bank a Michigan corporation of the County of Lapeer, mortgagor. The mortgage is dated the 31st day of August, A. D. 1921, and is for the sum of \$1,000.00. The mortgage is held by the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, in and to the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, at the office of the Register of Deeds, on the 12th day of September, A. D. 1924.

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DIRECTORY

Wormer & Moore REAL ESTATE—BIRMINGHAM—BLOOMFIELD HILLS—SOUTHFIELD. Main Office: 2231 PARK AVE., DETROIT. Birmingham Office: 3 Levinson Bldg., PHONE 930.

PHONE 235-F2. Royal Oak, Mich. "You cannot be happy and have your feet hurt!"

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OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN Dr. R. E. Everal. PHONE 910 (Over Postoffice). Hours 9 to 12 A. M.; 1 to 5 P. M. and by appointment.

Fred L. Tucker, Dentist. FIRST NAT'L BANK BLDG. PHONE 150. Office Hours: 9-12; 1-5. Evening hours by appointment.

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Emerson C. Brown LANDSCAPE GARDENING and TREE SURGERY. Room 12 Levinson Bldg. Phone: 412-1321. Res. 808-R. BIRMINGHAM, MICH.



Now for a Real Thanksgiving Day?

There's every reason to be thankful as you sit down to your Thanksgiving dinner, steaming turkey, and filling, and pie, and everything!

The nation generally, and each one in particular can give thanks wholeheartedly for the progress and peace of our land this past year.

More people in this community than ever before can give thanks, too, for the fact that their growing bank accounts here are paying the way to gratified ambitions later on.

THIS INSTITUTION WILL NOT BE OPEN ON THURSDAY, NOV. 27th

THANKSGIVING DAY.

First State Savings Bank

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN. PLAY SAFE—PAY YOUR BILLS BY CHECK. Capital and Surplus - \$125,000.00.

"STRENGTH, SERVICE AND COURTESY" BANKING FRIENDSHIPS THAT ENCIRCLE THE COMMUNITY

WE ARE OPEN WEDNESDAY EVENING BUT WILL BE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY



Folks!

THANKSGIVING will soon be here. So place your orders now for a nice Turkey, Goose, Duck, Chicken or perhaps a nice Roasting Pig.

We Also Have a Complete Line of FRESH and SMOKED MEATS BUTTER and EGGS WE DELIVER. Just Phone 648 or 649. Yours For Service.

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CLEANING, PRESSING, DYEING, REPAIRING. We Call and Deliver. Quality and Service Guaranteed. If you want satisfaction call A. B. C. Cleaners. 412 S. Woodward - Phone 312.

WHAT part of your present income would continue to your family if your death occurred this year? ROLLIN M. SMITH. Life Insurance. Phone 750.

Dr. Mabel Campbell OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN 312 First National Bank Bldg. PONTIAC. Phone Pontiac 3147. Hours: 9-12; 1-5 and by appointment.

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